

1750

# Back Creek Presbyterian Church

150th  
*Anniversary*  
1805-1955



September Fifth Through September Eleventh

Nineteen hundred fifty-five

MOUNT ULLA, N. C.

J. K. ROUSE  
1100 BRANTLEY ROAD  
KANNAPOLIS, N.C.  
28081



## Guest Leaders This Week

DR. E. A. BEATY, from Davidson College, has supplied this pulpit many times.

REV. W. PAYNE BROWN is a son of former Pastor Dr. E. D. Brown and now lives in Charleston, West Virginia.

REV. L. FRENCH COWAN is the son of Elder Will Cowan and is pastor of Beattie Memorial, Setzer's Gap and Warrior Churches, Lenoir, North Carolina.

DR. LOWRY DAVIS is grandson of Rev. T. E. Davis, former pastor here; missionary to China, retired.

REV. WALTER H. GOODMAN is a son of Back Creek, recently pastor at Edisto Island, South Carolina, now "actively retired" at Black Mountain, North Carolina.

MR. THOMAS F. KEPLER is son of the present pastor at Back Creek and is a student at Princeton Theological Seminary.

REV. HENRY R. POOLE is a son of Back Creek, now pastor at Lexington, North Carolina.

REV. ROBERT H. POOLE is a son of Back Creek, now pastor at Saint Pauls, North Carolina.

DR. C. M. RICHARDS, from Davidson College, has supplied this pulpit many times.

REV. HENRY S. ROBINSON was formerly pastor at Back Creek and Thyatira and now serves at Mallard Creek Church, Charlotte, North Carolina.

DR. ROBERT F. SLOOP is a son of Back Creek, now pastor at Lumberton, North Carolina.

REV. STEPHEN J. SLOOP is a son of Back Creek, serving in Brazil as a missionary.

DR. WALTER M. WALSH, formerly pastor at Back Creek and Thyatira, is "actively retired" and living in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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MISS NELLIE STUART is organist at Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia. We are happy to have her at the organ Sunday morning and for some of the evening services.

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# MONDAY—September 5

8:00 P.M.



Prelude

Hymn 345 (11): *The Church's One Foundation*

Invocation

Hymn 352 (170) *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

Reading from the Scripture.....John 9:1-12  
Rev. L. French Cowan

Evening Prayer.....Rev. L. French Cowan

Offering

Special Music

Sermon: "Redeeming The Time"....Rev. Walter H. Goodman

Prayer

Hymn 27 (288): *We Praise Thee, O God*

Benediction

Postlude

PRESENTED BY WALTER ROYAL DAVIS BOOK FUND

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**TUESDAY—September 6**

8:00 P.M.



Prelude

Hymn 192 (292): *O Happy Day, That Fixed My Choice*

Invocation

Hymn 353 (350): *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

Reading from the Scripture.....Haggai 1:1-15

Mr. Thomas F. Kepler

Evening Prayer.....Mr. Thomas F. Kepler

Offering

Sermon: "Why We Need The Church".....Haggai 1:14

Rev. Henry Robinson

Prayer

Hymn 368 (362): *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Benediction

Postlude

# WEDNESDAY—September 7

8:00 P.M.



Prelude

Hymn 290 (316): *The Son of God Goes Forth to War*

Invocation

Hymn 395 (364): *O Zion, Haste*

Reading from the Scripture.....Romans 10:1-17  
Dr. Robert Sloop

Evening Prayer.....Dr. Robert Sloop

Offering

Special Music

Sermon: "Forward With Christ in World Missions"  
Rev. Stephen Sloop

Prayer

Hymn 392 (347): *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

Benediction

Postlude



THURSDAY—September 8

8:00 P.M.



Prelude

Hymn 143 (257): *Amazing Grace! How Sweet The Sound*

Invocation

Hymn 316 (60): *Brightly Beams Our Father's Mercy*

Reading from Scripture.....Hebrews 11:32-12:2  
Rev. Henry R. Poole

Evening Prayer.....Rev. Henry R. Poole

Offering

Sermon: "From Generation to Generation"  
Rev. Robert H. Poole

Hymn 307 (341): *Am I A Soldier of The Cross?*

Benediction

Postlude

FRIDAY—September 9

8:00 P.M.



Prelude

Hymn 342 (177): *God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand*

Invocation

Hymn 219 (215): *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*

Reading from Scripture.....Romans 1:1-17

Rev. Payne Brown

Evening Prayer.....Rev. Payne Brown

Offering

Special Music

Sermon: "On Being A Debtor".....Dr. E. A. Beaty

Prayer

Hymn 19 (55): *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Benediction

Postlude

## SUNDAY—September 11

MORNING WORSHIP

Eleven o'clock

Prelude

Doxology

Invocation and The Lord's Prayer.....Rev. R. F. Kepler

Hymn 1 (293): *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Scripture Lesson.....Hebrews 12:14-29  
Dr. C. M. Richards

Prayer.....Dr. Richards

Reading of Communications.....Mr. M. B. Corriher

Historical Notes of Back Creek.....Rev. W. H. Goodman

Hymn 210 (400): *Faith of Our Fathers! Living Still*

Offertory Prayer

Offering

Sermon: "The Things That Remain"....Rev. Walter M. Walsh

Hymn 27 (288): *We Praise Thee, O God!*

Benediction and Silent Prayer.....Dr. Lowry Davis

Postlude



Picnic dinner will be served "in the grove" after this service.



## Brief Sketch of Back Creek Presbyterian Church

MOUNT ULLA, NORTH CAROLINA

*"It is because today learns wisdom from yesterday that  
it can teach wisdom to tomorrow."*

Back Creek Church is a daughter of her cherished mother, Thyatira, resulting primarily from the great Revival of Religion in the early 1800's, when a few of the members of Thyatira and all her ruling elders petitioned Concord Presbytery to organize them into a separate congregation. On September 5, 1805, Presbytery in regular meeting at Rocky River Church did recognize this small "colony" as a separate congregation, and entered its name, "Back Creek", on the roll of churches under its care.

Our church gets its name from the nearby stream. The early Rowan County records indicate that this creek was referred to as being back of Sill's Creek, hence "Back Creek".

Soon this little group of resolute and true Presbyterians erected for themselves a comfortable, little log house in which they worshipped for several years, and it was still standing at the dedication of this our third building in 1857. Doubtless many hallowed associations clustered around that ancient building. The date of the deed for "Back Creek Meeting House" was in 1811, the year our second House of Worship was erected. This tract of land was donated by Mr. John Barr, one of the ruling elders.

Our forefathers held that the church and the school house should go together, and so nearby a Session House was built to serve also as a school house or academy. It has been said that,

*"She dreads no sceptic's puny hand  
While near her school the church spire stands,  
Nor fears the blinded bigot's rule  
When near her church spire stands the school."*

Space will not permit a resumé of our ministers, but suffice it to say that they were found faithful defenders of the faith. It would be a titanic task to realize the conditions under which these faithful servants of the Lord labored so diligently and laid so securely the foundations for our present organization, handed down to us as a responsibility and as a privilege.

Referring to the early elders in our church one has said: "We honestly believe that no church can boast of a better eldership than that which ruled in Back Creek. It was their meat and bread to do their Master's will." (The original elders at Back Creek were Thomas King, John Barr, William Bell, Abraham Lowrance, and Thomas Gillespie.) "Life is divine when duty is a joy."

May this too brief sketch bring to recollection "the former things", that if possible we may catch something of the spirit and the zeal of

our forefathers; that we may be stimulated to nobler actions, more enlarged benevolence, and greater energy.

*"Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints upon the sands of time;  
Footprints which perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's troubled main,—  
Some forlorn and shipwrecked brother,—  
Seeing may take heart again."*

M. EMMA GOODMAN  
September 1955



## LIST OF REGULAR PASTORS

Rev. J. D. Kilpatrick.....	April 1807-1829
(Also served Third Creek)	
Rev. Andrew Y. Lockridge.....	May 1832-1845
(Also served Third Creek until 1936)	
Rev. Thomas E. Davis.....	March 1845-1851
Dr. Samuel Caldwell Alexander.....	March 1854-1859
(Also served Thyatira)	
Rev. Winslow B. Watts.....	June 1861-1868
(Also served Prospect; buried at Back Creek)	
Rev. J. Alston Ramsay.....	June 1877-1891
(From 1877 to 1946 the pastors served both Back Creek and Thyatira)	
Rev. John A. Harris.....	July 1891-1898
Rev. John A. Gilmer.....	July 1900-1904
Rev. Walter M. Walsh.....	1905-1911
Rev. James C. Grier.....	September 1912-1916
Dr. Edward Douglas Brown.....	October 1916-1927
Rev. James Earle Guthrie.....	May 1927-1937
Rev. James S. Robinson.....	June 1938-1942
Rev. James R. Phipps.....	February 1943-1946
Rev. Raymond F. Kepler.....	July 1950-

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

RAYMOND F. KEPLER, *Pastor*

## THE SESSION

William S. Barber (1942)	Arthur K. Goodman (1922)
Mitchell B. Corriher (1942)	Samuel M. Sloop, Clerk (1950)
William F. Cowan (1929)	W. Ray Wilkinson (1950)

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS

J. Wilson Brown (1950)	J. Renn Lefler (1936)
Scott R. Knox, Treas. (1903)	Phil J. Sloop (1950)
H. Leroy McLaughlin (1913)	Chas. J. Wilkinson (1913)

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent.....	Thomas Corriher
Assistant Superintendent.....	Stephen L. McNeely
Secretary-Treasurer.....	W. Ray Wilkinson
Pianist.....	Mrs. M. B. Corriher

## GENERAL OFFICERS

President, Women of The Church.....	Mrs. S. B. Coble
President, Men of The Church.....	Samuel M. Sloop
President, Youth Fellowship.....	John Kepler
Organist.....	Mrs. Keith LaRue

## SESQUI-CENTENNIAL

Steering Committee Chairman.....	M. B. Corriher
Treasurer.....	Scott R. Knox
Grounds and Buildings.....	Chas. J. Wilkinson
Historian.....	Miss Emma Goodman

(Dates in parenthesis are date of ordination and installation.)

